

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Worcester Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Third Worcester Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.9% (1,151) reside in the Third Worcester Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (219) of Third Worcester Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.5% of admissions from the Third Worcester Representative District were male and 24.5% were female.
- Over 63.5% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 60.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 5.1% were black non-Latino, 31.2% were Latino, 0.1% were Asians, and 2.9% were other racial categories.
- 64.0% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 11.7% were married, and 18.3% reported not to be married now.
- 43.6% of admissions had less than high school education, 40.6% completed high school, and 15.8% had more than high school education.
- 20.6% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 23.0% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.5% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

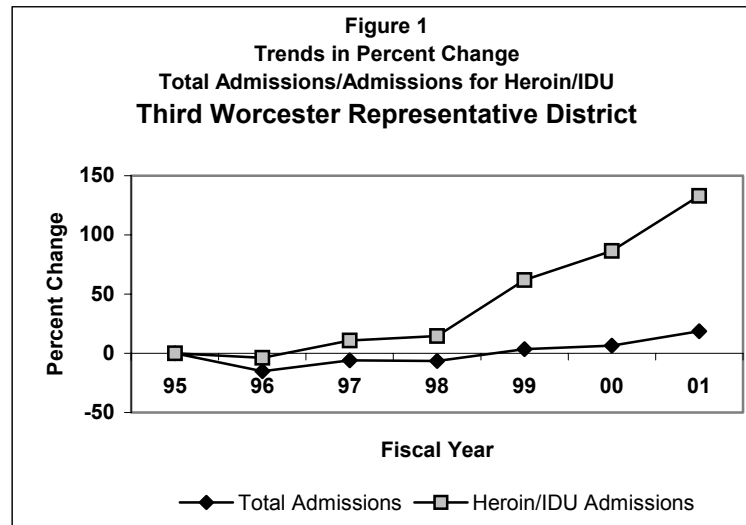
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Third Worcester Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Third Worcester Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	970	828	366	347	399	345	220
FY '96	823	674	302	325	284	329	214
FY '97	912	704	353	346	236	369	257
FY '98	906	684	334	314	183	398	250
FY '99	1003	701	407	366	204	529	385
FY '00	1,033	644	403	319	235	610	443
FY '01	1,151	645	331	341	222	754	562

- Since peaking in FY 1999, residents of Third Worcester Representative District reported a decrease in alcohol use, but a steady increase in heroin use. Alcohol use decreased by 8%, while heroin use increased by 42%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting cocaine use remained steady, while marijuana and crack use decreased by 9% and 44%, respectively.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Third Worcester Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 18.7% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 132.9%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Worcester Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	27.3%	62.0%	4.2%	2.9%	2.3%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, heroin was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000